

**City of Bloomington  
Telecommunications Council  
Business Meeting – October 2, 2012**

**Common Council Chambers  
City Hall at the Showers Building  
401 N. Morton St.**

**I. Members Present:** Thom Gillespie, Carl Zager, Eric Ost, Duane Busick

**Members Absent:** None

Note: There is one vacant position available on the Telecommunications Council.

**II. Public Comment** – None

**III. Approval of Minutes:**

Duane Busick motioned to accept the August minutes. Motion was seconded by Eric Ost. Discussion was held. Eric Ost found many misspellings, and grammatical errors. It was suggested that Eric Ost make the corrections on a hard copy. Then corrections can be given to IT Department for changes to the formal minutes. Thom Gillespie suggested that the council ask for the minutes in an electronic version so corrections can be made before final posting. Eric Ost stated that a request like that had been made in the past and was denied. Thom Gillespie asked what happens if the council doesn't approve minutes. Eric Ost stated that the Indiana Open Records law says that you have to maintain a memorandum of minutes in a meeting. If you forestall approving them, I don't know. Under Indiana law there does have to be a listing of both members present and members absent. Carl Zager motioned to delay approval of minutes till November, so Eric Ost could make a detailed list of errors found in August minutes. Motion was seconded by Eric Ost. Duane Busick called for the question. All were in favor, motion was passed.

**IV. Reports and Announcements**

**1. Telecom Members:**

**Carl Zager** – Offered an open apology to those that came to the September meeting but there was not a quorum to report too. There seemed to be a miscommunication.

**2. CATS – Michael White, CATS General Manager**

- \* Monthly programming report
- \* Record month for Governmental productions
- \* 36 Community Productions / 42 Governmental Productions

**Thom Gillespie** - What types of things are being sought after by MCPL Digital Creativity team for a lab?

**Michael White** – There is a committee working on this. There are two members of the CATS staff that are on the committee. They do plan on taking it to the board with their recommended plans. Digital creativity centers have blossomed.

**Thom Gillespie** – Have they looked at “Blender”? It is open source software. They have just released their 4<sup>th</sup> open source movie. It was done with free software. It has a good interface, easy to teach, and green screen.

**Eric Ost** – Who are the CATS staff on the committee?

**Michael White** – Martin O’Neil, and Jason Radke

**Duane Busick** – Participation in Candidates on Demand?

**Michael White** – Taped our last one today. We had over 20 candidates participate. Wish we had more. There are like 41 local candidates. We contact party chairs, send out certified letters. Some want to do it, some don't. We and the candidates that participate feel like it is wonderful service. We hope to have the programs up and running as soon as possible.

**Duane Busick** – Will those elements be available separately, so they could be embedded into a facebook page or something like that?

**Michael White** - Yes. They will also be available on the CATS website, and Ch. 12 & 14 up to the day of the election.

### **3. WTIU – Phil Meyer, Station Manager**

WTIU gives a report quarterly. Phil Meyer came to the September meeting to give his report.

**Duane Busick** – I saw Phil and he asked if he needed to come back this month, and I told him no; that he had made his quarterly appearance.

**Thom Gillespie** – Are these documents we need to attach to these minutes?

**Duane Busick** – He had emailed those documents to the council before the September meeting. They would need to be attached to the September minutes.

### **V. Information from or about Video Service Provider - No Report**

#### **VI. Old Business**

**Carl Zager** – In the August minutes, there was reference made to the Announcement of the Google Project in Kansas City. I've been advocating for a number of years, a discussion/investigation on a community wide connectivity project. The Kansas City fiber project is really too closely connected to the type of connectivity with our three video service providers. I'm not sure it fits my concern. I'm still anxious to see if there would be a market in Bloomington for a company to provide some wireless connectivity across the community. A number of council members talked about getting some information and I wondered if we had been able to follow-up on that. Do we have a way of finding out how much internet is used at the county library? As well as, how much use is made of the public network here in the city building? Do we have a way to get these numbers to have some indication of that type of resource?

**Thom Gillespie** – We need to narrow down what we want done, so it will be interesting research for IU students to do complete as an internship. As internship, we would need to decide if this is one student project or multiple projects.

**Eric Ost** – Interns have played a big role in other councils, and commissions throughout the city.

**Thom Gillespie** – How should we proceed with this?

**Eric Ost** – We need a framework. What is a do-able project?

**Duane Busick** – We need to see what information is readily available, and then chart out a strategy for information that still needs to be collected.

**Eric Ost** – We can also look at prior studies that have been done by the city. There have been at least three done on telecommunications since the 90's.

**Carl Zager** – I would like to have someone come in and talk to us about using interns and how the process works. Should we also consider some work sessions instead of business meetings?

**Thom Gillespie** – I can do that. It is what I use to do at IU. The critical thing is making sure you have something for the intern to do, which is defined and very specific. They need to be able to manage their time around the project.

**Carl Zager** – Why don't we schedule a work session?

**Eric Ost** – What are we going to do at the work session?

**Thom Gillespie** – The plan will be to come up with a job description.

Duane Busick motioned that a work session be held on Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at the MCPL CATS Conference room. Eric Ost seconded the motion, all approved.

**Carl Zager** – We need to make sure a public notice goes out about the meeting.

#### **VII. New Business**

Franchise Fees for the second quarter (April 1<sup>st</sup> – June 30<sup>th</sup>)

Indiana Bell Telephone Co. \$51, 689.71 7/30/12

Comcast \$155, 308.98 8/12/12

**Eric Ost** - I recall that the numbers are down, possibly about 3% from 2011.

**Carl Zager** – The reason I bring it up, is the other part of my ongoing concern that funding for community access is dependent upon franchise fees and as these continue to go down, pressure is going to build on how to fund community access television.

**Eric Ost** – My feeling on the numbers is that video service rates have continued to up faster than the cost of living. At the same time, there is a number; which is difficult to quantify what that number is; there have been folks either thru values or financial consideration un-subscribing to one or more of their telecommunication services. Those have now reached a level where they are impacting franchise fee receipts.

**Duane Busick** – The difference from 2011 to 2012 in the second quarter is only about \$230.00. The trend does show that numbers are beginning to slop downward.

**Thom Gillespie** - I think Carl is right, and the changes are going to be more sudden then they have in the past.

**Carl Zager** – I would like for us to keep this in mind for next Tuesday's work session, because it could be project oriented.

Carl Zager motioned that we acknowledge receipt of these franchise fee reports from AT&T and Comcast. Eric Ost seconded the motion. All were in favor, motion passed.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Thom Gillespie motioned for adjournment.

#### **Next Regular Meeting**

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building  
401 N. Morton St.

Submitted by:

Stephanie Jachim 10/23/2012